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Commission of Fine Arts on
15 April 1959

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Minutes of Meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts held
in Washington, D.C., 15 April 1959, at 9:15 a.m.

The Commission met, pursuant to notice, at 9:15 a.m., with
David E. Finley, Chairman, presiding.

Present, in addition to the Chairman, were:

Felix W. de Weldon	Mrs. Emily Muir
Douglas Orr	William G. Perry
Michael Rapuano	

Linton R. Wilson, Secretary
Susan E. Bennett, Admn. Asst.
Gilbert Halasz, Stenotypist

I. Administration

See Minutes of the Executive Session held on April 14, 1959, at 5:00 p.m.

II. Submissions and Interviews

1. Government of the District of Columbia

a. Department of Highways and Traffic

1. Theodore Roosevelt Bridge - changes in design of eastern abutments

Mr. Sawyer and Mr. Grady presented renderings for the revised design of the abutments. The architect had proposed terminating the bridge sidewalk on the western side of the Parkway with a stairway that would be enclosed within the masonry of the abutment. The members were not in favor of this and recommended that the sidewalk be carried across the Parkway and joined to the walks of the park system.

2. Sculpture: The members expressed the hope that the two sculptured plaques could be developed as previously planned. Omission of the inscription over the roadway opening was also recommended.

3. Lighting: The members said it was their hope that it would be possible to work out a system of lighting from the bridge railing and eliminate the tall lighting standards. The Secretary was requested to write a letter to the Engineer Commissioner for the District of Columbia informing him of these actions. Copy of such letter to be made part of the official record of these proceedings. Exhibit A.

b. Department of Licenses and Inspections

1. Shipstead-Luce Application #2149 - Informal Resubmission

a. Kanns Department Store-Resurfacing with aluminum

The Architect, Mr. Dreyfuss, presented the drawings for resurfacing Kanns Department Store with special aluminum sheeting. After a lengthy discussion, the members recom-

(p. 2 follows p. 3)

mission to view it either in New York or Detroit, depending on where Mr. Fredericks will execute the clay model.

3. District of Columbia Armory Board

a. Stadium for the District of Columbia

The members met with the Chairman and other members of the Armory Board and their architects to consider again the location of the Stadium and the design of the structure.

The members stated that the Washington Plan of 1950 allocated a site for the Stadium directly north of the Armory building and retained the site at the end of the East Mall, on axis with the Capitol, as an open space. It was expected that the terminal site would remain available as a possible location for a great monument comparable to the Lincoln Memorial.

The members of the Commission reaffirmed their belief that the site for the Stadium should be the one allocated in the 1950 Plan, just north of the Armory building, reserving the open space at the end of the East Mall. The Chairman was requested to write a letter to the Chairman of the Armory Board informing him of this action. Copy of such letter to be made a part of the official record of these proceedings. Exhibit D.

4. Department of the Army - Heraldic Branch

a. National Security Agency Exceptional Civilian Service Award Medal - Status

The Secretary reported that he and Mr. de Weldon, the sculptor member had conferred with Colonel Cook of the Heraldic Branch concerning the design for the above described medal. Several different ideas for designs were suggested to Colonel Cook and other design sketches will be submitted at a later date.

5. Department of the Interior - National Park Service

a. National Capital Parks

1. First Infantry Division Memorial - Insignia on west face of pylon facing 17th Street, Northwest

The members considered a sketch drawing for the inscription to be placed on the west face of the above described monument. It was recommended that the dates be omitted and the words of the inscription be in one line and of classic carved letters. The Secretary was requested to write a letter to Colonel Wm. E. Shepherd, Agent, Society of the First Division, informing him of this action. Copy of such letter to be made a part of the official record of these proceedings. Exhibit E.

mended that light gray panels be used with narrow white fins. The fire access panels over the windows will be marked with a sign of small lettering above the show windows. It was agreed that new designs incorporating these suggestions would be submitted at the next meeting.

2. Preliminary Shipstead-Luce Application

American Pharmaceutical Association Building Annex

The members of the Commission met with Dr. Fischelis, Secretary, American Pharmaceutical Association, at the site of the proposed addition to the Association building, for the purpose of viewing samples of Alabama Limestone. The members regretted that marble of the same type as used in the original building is no longer available, and, for this reason, approved the use of Alabama Limestone of the color and quality in the sample for the annex. The Secretary was requested to confirm this action in a letter to the Secretary of the American Pharmaceutical Association. Copy of such letter to be made a part of the official record of these proceedings. Exhibit B.

2. General Services Administration

a. Public Buildings Service

1. Square 167 - National Grange Building's effect on Development

There was a general discussion with Messrs. Hunter and Snyder, of the Public Buildings Service, regarding the development of Square 167, and especially the headquarters building for the National Grange. It had been expected that representatives of the National Grange would also be present, But at the last minute, they found it impossible to come. The Chairman stressed the fact that the Director, Mr. Newsom of the National Grange, wanted very much to cooperate in every way possible, but, because of the expense, he could not at this date substitute limestone for the brick they had planned to use. The Chairman was asked to write a letter to Mr. Newsom expressing the concern of the Commission for the overall appearance of the buildings in Square 167. Copy of such letter to be made a part of the official record of these proceedings. Exhibits C, C-1, C-2.

2. State Department - Sculpture by Marshall Fredericks

The members discussed further with the Sculptor, and representatives of the State Department and Public Buildings Service, designs for the fountain to be placed in the south interior court of the new annex to the State Department. In general, the members considered the design well executed but believed that the pose of the figure on the sphere should be more carefully studied, ^{to avoid any sense of imbalance.} It was agreed that the Sculptor would proceed in accordance with suggestions made, to make the full scale clay model. When this model is ready, arrangements will be made for the sculptor member of the Comm

6. Smithsonian Institution - Freer Gallery of Art

a. Acquisitions by Purchase

In accordance with the usual custom, the Commission visited the Freer Gallery of Art, where the Assistant Director, Mr. Fope, submitted a number of works of art proposed for purchase. The Commission was pleased to inspect the objects and approved them for purchase. Exhibit F.

III. Legislation

H. R. 3459/86th Congress - "To amend the Act of August 21, 1935, to provide for a determination of whether certain sites, buildings, or other objects are of national historical significance, and to prohibit the use of Federal funds for highway purposes which damage or destroy national historical sites, buildings, or other objects!"

H. R. 4046/86th Congress - "To amend the Act of August 21, 1935, to provide for a determination of whether certain sites, buildings, or other objects such as the historic State, War, Navy Building, the San Francisco Mint, and the Morristown National Historical Park are of national historical significance in order to successfully save those sites, buildings and objects which are of great national value and which are now being destroyed or are being threatened with destruction by the Federal Government as well as by private interests."

The Chairman read the draft of a letter to the Chairman of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs stating that the Commission of Fine Arts would like to see enacted such legislation as that described above, but suggested the inclusion of a provision to add a cultural advisor to the office of the Federal Highway Administrator. The members approved sending the letter as drafted. Copy of such letter to be made a part of the official record of these proceedings. Exhibit G.

H. R. 6330/86th Congress - Providing that no memorial shall be placed on Federal property (other than within the United States Capitol Buildings) in the National Capital region until fifty years shall have elapsed from the event or the date of death of the person which the memorial is intended to commemorate.

The members discussed the merits of the proposed legislation described above, and it was agreed that if the Commission is asked to report on this bill, a letter would be sent stating that the Commission did not believe it would be wise to place a definite limitation as to years, but that each memorial should be considered on its own merits. No further action was indicated.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

L.R. Wilson

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

15 APRIL 1959

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 9:15 a.m. 1. CONVENE, ROOM 7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING.
- 9:30 a.m. 2. D. C. DEPT. OF HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC (Mr. G. I. Sawyer, Deputy Dr. for Engineering, Design & Research, Mr. John Grady, architect): Theodore Roosevelt Bridge - Change in design-abutments-D. C. Side.
- 10:15 a.m. 3. SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT:
- (a) Informal Submission - Proposed resurfacing of Kann's Dept. Store at 701 Market Space, NW - Alternate schemes (Mr. W. E. Dreyfuss, architect; Mr. J. P. Green, Chief, Permit Branch, D. C. Dept. of Licenses & Inspections)
- 10:45 a.m. 4. GSA-Public Buildings Service, Square 167—National Grange (Mr. Ralph G. Macy, Comm's. of Public Bldgs. Service, Mr. J. Rowland Snyder, Dr., Arch'l. & Structural Div., PBS)
- 11:15 a.m. Recess and proceed to State Dept. Annex
- 11:30 a.m. 5. GSA-Public Buildings Service Submission: State. Dept., Sculpture by Marshall Fredericks (CFA will meet with PBS representatives at site).
- 12:00 M 6. SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT (Continued):
- (b) Informal Submission - American Pharmaceutical Assn. Annex (CFA will visit site to see samples of Alabama Limestone).
- 12:30 p.m. 7. FREER GALLERY OF ART - Inspection of art objects.
- 1:00 p.m. Lunch in Interior Dept.
- 2:15 p.m. 8. D. C. ARMORY BOARD (Mr. George F. Shea, Chairman, Mr. Arthur J. Bergman, Managing Dr., Maj. Gen. Wm. H. Abendroth, Member, D. C. Armory Board; Mr. Jas. A. Blaser, Contracting Officer; Mr. Noble W. Herzberg of The Osborn Co., Engineers; Gen. Jas. A. Mollison, Mr. Allan B. MacPherson of Ewin Engineering Associates; Mr. John W. Waterbury of Praeger-Kavanagh-Waterbury, Architects; Mr. Geo. L. Dahl, architect): Discussion re site, D. C. Stadium.
- 7-5700

1. AMERICAN-INDIAN BUREAU OF ETHNOLOGY : National Academy of Sciences, Division of Biological Sciences (Biology).

10. FOR THE DIVISION OF BIOLOGY - This was on the first of the morning.

WITNESSES APPEARING BEFORE THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
ON 15 APRIL 1959 IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOLLOWING SUBMISSIONS

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

a. Department of Highways and Traffic

1. Theodore Roosevelt Bridge design -
abutments-plaques-sidewalk-lighting

Mr. G. I. Sawyer, Deputy Dir. Eng'g. Design and Research
Mr. John Grady, Architect

Mr. Harry T. Thompson, Supt., National Capital Parks
Mr. Wm. Haussmann, National Capital Parks

SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT INFORMAL SUBMISSION

a. Proposed resurfacing of Kanns Department StoreZ

Mr. W. E. Dreyfuss, Architect

Mr. B. B. Burgunder, Kanns Department Store

Mr. J. P. Green, Chief, Permit Branch

D. C. Department of Licenses and Inspection

GSA-PUBLIC BUILDINGS SERVICE

a. Square 167 - National Grange

Mr. L. L. Hunter, Asst. Commr. for Planning and Design, PBS

Mr. J. R. Snyder, Dir. Architectural and Structural Div., PBS

Mr. J. P. Green, Chief, Permit Branch

D. C. Department of Licenses and Inspection

b. State Department - Sculpture by Marshall Fredericks

Mr. Marshall Fredericks, Sculptor

Mr. Hunter, Mr. Snyder, and Mr. R. J. Domke, Liaison Architect, PBS

Mr. Thomas S. Estes, Deputy Asst. Secretary of State for Operations

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ARMORY BOARD

a. District of Columbia Stadium

Mr. George F. Shea, Chairman, D. C. Armory Board

Mr. Arthur Bergman, Managing Director

James A. Blaser, Contracting Officer

Noble W. Herzberg, The Osborn Company, Engineers

Gen. James A. Mollison and Allan B. MacPherson, of the
Ewing Engineering Associates

John W. Waterbury, of Praeger-Kavanagh-Waterbury, Architects

George L. Dahl, Architect

Admiral Neill Phillips, Chairman, Committee of 100

Horace Peaslee, Architect

E. Price, National Capital Planning Commission

The Press was represented by Jack Eisen and Jack Walsh, sports writer,
for the Washington Post and Times Herald; and Miss Martha Strayer,
for the Washington Daily News

22 April 1959

Brig. General A. C. Welling
Engineer Commissioner for
the District of Columbia
District Building
Washington 4, D. C.

Dear General Welling:

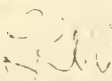
The members of the Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on 15 April 1959, conferred with Mr. Sawyer, and Mr. Grady, of the District of Columbia Highways and Traffic Department, regarding proposed revisions in design to the masonry pier at the end of the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge. The changes mainly involved a proposal by the architects to terminate the bridge sidewalk with a stairway, enclosed in the masonry of the abutment and leading to a walk on the west side of the Parkway Drive. The members considered that the design was somewhat complicated by re-entrant breaks and that the simplicity and solidity of the previous design had been lost; from a practical point of view an undesirable pocket was created at the bottom of the stairs. It was recommended that the sidewalk be carried across the Parkway Drive and joined to the walks of the park system there.

It was further considered that the introduction of the inscription over the roadway opening was unnecessary and that the two sculptural plaques were crowded into too small a space. They hope that the sculptural plaques can be developed as previously shown. An effort should be made to retain the simple masses and relationship of the first design. The advice of an able sculptor is recommended in solving the character and placement of the plaques. The desires of the Theodore Roosevelt Association should also be obtained.

Disappointment was also experienced in the type of lighting standard shown in the perspective of the bridge abutment, and hope was expressed that the use of a system of lighting from the bridge railing will make it possible to eliminate the tall lighting standards.

Mr. Sawyer said he would restudy all these matters and return with the findings of his studies at a future meeting.

Sincerely yours,


L. R. Wilson
Secretary

cc Dr., D. C. Highways & Traffic Dept.
Deputy Dr., D. C. Highways & Traffic Dept.
Secretary, Interior Dept.
Superintendent, National Capital Parks

28 May 1959

Dr. Robert P. Fischelis, Secretary
American Pharmaceutical Association
2215 Constitution Avenue, N. W.
Washington 7, D. C.

Dear Dr. Fischelis:

I am writing to confirm that the Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on 15 April 1959, viewed with you and the architect a sample mock-up of Alabama Limestone at the site of the proposed addition to the American Pharmaceutical Association Building.

The members of the Commission regretted that marble of the same type which was used in the original building is no longer available, but they approved the use of Alabama Limestone of the color and quality in the sample for the building because it appeared to be a reasonably good match in color with the existing marble facades.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley, Chairman

by

L. R. Wilson, Secretary

cc Eggers & Higgins

FORWARDED FOR INFORMATION

APR 17 1959

L. R. WILSON, SECRETARY
COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

THE WASHINGTON POST and TIMES HERALD
Friday, April 17, 1959 B3

New Grange Building Design Worries Fine Arts Commission

Some Federal officials are concerned over how the new National Grange headquarters will look, but they are powerless to take any action in the matter.

Work has started on the building, a narrow brick structure 110 feet tall in the 1700 block of H st. nw. just west of historic Decatur House. A large Federal office building fronting on Lafayette Square will take up most of the square.

The concern came to light at a Fine Arts Commission meeting Wednesday. Commission Chairman David E. Finley said a limestone exterior would be preferable, but his agency cannot officially suggest this.

The Commission has jurisdiction over the Lafayette Square and Pennsylvania ave. frontages of the square under

the Shipstead-Luce Act. It has none over buildings not facing on Federal holdings.

The Government wanted to buy Grange's present headquarters at 744 Jackson place nw., but Congressional friends of the farm organization blocked this. Federal officials finally agreed to provide a site in the same square.

The Arts unit also asked the Highway Department to change the design of the Theodore Roosevelt, or Constitution ave., bridge to include a sidewalk over the Ohio drive. The original plans provided for the sidewalk ending on the river side of Ohio drive, with access by a stairways inside the bridge abutment.

NATIONAL GRANGE

Patrons of Husbandry



OFFICERS

Nicholas D. Newsum, Master, Washington, D. C.
Edward F. Holter, Lecturer, Washington, D. C.
Edward D. Smith, Treasurer, Brasher Falls, N. Y.
Harry A. Caton, Secretary, Coshocton, Ohio

744 Jackson Place, N.W.
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ray Teagarden, Ch., LaCygne, Kan.
Harry B. Caldwell, Secretary, Greensboro, N. C.
W. E. Adams, Eagle Lake, Mich.
Maynard C. Dolloff, Augusta, Maine

April 23, 1959

Mr. David Finley, Chairman
Fine Arts Commission
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Finley:

I could not but be somewhat perturbed by the news story appearing in the April 17, 1959, issue of The Washington Post under the headline, "New Grange Building Design Worries Fine Arts Commission". The article purports to quote you and carries the implication that it was not until last Wednesday, April 17, that the Commission had any information concerning the design of the Grange Building.

Actually, the facts are, as both you and I know, that our architect, Mr. Jerome O'Connor, met with members of the Fine Arts Commission, representatives of the General Services Administration, and the architects for the Federal Office Buildings several months ago in an effort to design a building which would be in complete harmony with the Federal Office Buildings. At that time it was the intention of the General Services Administration to build a large Federal Office Building which would almost encircle the Grange Building, except for the side facing H Street on the north and the east side facing the Decatur House. A 34 foot court to the rear of the Building was to separate the Grange Building from the Federal Office Buildings.

It was not until last month that I learned that the proposed design of the Federal Office Building had been changed, and that it was your intention and understanding presently that Government will build a Federal Office Building consisting of a rather narrow structure extending from Pennsylvania Avenue to H Street and facing 17th Street and that there would be a rather large court to the rear of the Federal Office Building, the Blair-Lee House, the Court of Claims Building, and the Grange Building, thereby exposing portions of the Grange Building to the south and east to greater public view, at least from the court.

It is this proposed revision in plans for the Federal Office Building which makes it desirable in your opinion to have the east and south sides of the Grange Building limestoned. Since I first learned of the revision in the design of the Federal Office Building I have met on two other

April 23, 1959

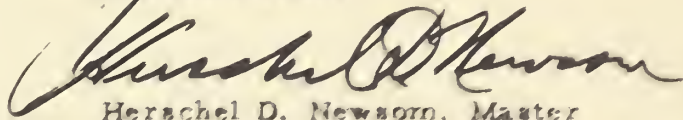
occasions with you to explore the possibilities which might be available for limestoning the two sides of our Building. I pointed out that our Building is under contract and construction is under way and that if we were to make any changes in the exterior elevations we would have to act quickly.

Although the Fine Arts Commission has no authority over our Building, we have endeavored, as indicated above, to have plans prepared which would be in harmony with the Decatur House and the proposed Federal Office Building. Furthermore, we have indicated to you and we reiterate that we would be willing to attempt to work out some cooperative arrangement with the Government and with the Fine Arts Commission for limestoning the south and east sides of the Grange Building. However, we are not in a position to, nor should we be expected to bear the additional cost which would be required. The limestoning of the two sides of the Grange Building would not, in any manner, increase the utility or the value of the Building to the Grange. If it were done, it would be for aesthetic reasons only.

It is, therefore, a cost which should be borne generally the same as any other costs involved for lawns, landscaping, building design and other actions taken in connection with the erection of the Federal Office Buildings for aesthetic reasons.

You may be assured of our continued cooperation in obtaining a complete harmony in architectural design. By early next week we expect to have samples and definite information which we would like to discuss with you. May I ask, therefore, that you plan to meet with us, preferably here. I will phone you or Mr. Wilson.

Sincerely yours,



Herschel D. Newsom, Master

HDN/db

April 30, 1959

Dear Mr. Newsom:

Thank you for your letter of April 23rd. I had hoped to talk with you on the telephone after our meeting on April 15th and to tell you how disappointed we were that you and Mr. Parker were prevented at the last minute from meeting with us and discussing with the entire Commission the design of the new National Grange Building and its relation to the buildings for the Federal Government and others which will occupy Square 167. We had arranged for representatives of the General Services Administration to be present; and because of your absence, our discussion was not as complete as could have been desired.

However, I told the members of the Commission the views which you had outlined to me on the two occasions when we met and discussed the matter following our meeting on March 18th. I also stressed to the members and to the press that you had tried to cooperate in every way possible and that you agreed with our preference for the use of limestone rather than brick, if funds were available for facing the east and south facades of the new building to be erected for the Grange. I was disappointed, as you were, that the press did not make this entirely clear.

At the meeting of the Commission on April 15th, the representatives of the General Services Administration stated there would be no funds from that source available for transfer to you for the purpose of defraying the cost of covering the east and south facades of your building with limestone. Also, no one had any assurance that Congress would appropriate the amount needed for you to make this substitution in material. Everyone regretted their inability to find some solution.

After considerable study, the members of the Commission asked me to write you and state the concern we feel for the overall appearance for all the buildings in Square 167. We have, of course, no jurisdiction as regards the Grange building, and I want to reiterate again my appreciation of your willingness to cooperate with us so far as you can in securing a satisfactory exterior appearance.

Mr. Wilson and I shall be glad to meet with you again as you suggest in your letter, and the Commission will, of course, continue to work with

Mr. Herschel D. Newson

April 30, 1959

General Services Administration to make sure that the group of buildings shall be as harmonious as possible under the circumstances.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Mr. Herschel D. Newson
Master, The National Grange
744 Jackson Place, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

cc Administrator, GSA
Comm'r. of PBS, GSA
Ass't. Comm'r. for Design &
Construction, PBS, GSA

16 April 1959

Dear Mr. Shea:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting yesterday, was glad to meet again with you and the architects and members of the Armory Board, to consider further the location of the Stadium and the design of the structure. During the time since your plans were first shown to the Commission, at its meeting on March 18th, we have given the matter careful study and have also inspected again the three sites proposed in the "Engineering and Economic Study, District of Columbia Stadium", dated March 31, 1958.

The Commission of Fine Arts, under its Enabling Act and Executive Orders, is concerned with "all important plans for parks and all public buildings constructed by the Executive Departments or the District of Columbia, which, in any essential way, affect the appearance of the city of Washington." The Commission is guided in such matters by the Plan of Washington, adopted jointly in 1950 by the National Capital Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts. Unless there is such a plan and unless it is adhered to, cities will not develop in an orderly manner. Compliance with an approved plan is always important and especially in the Nation's Capital.

The Washington Plan of 1950 provided a site for a Stadium, a facility whose completion the Commission of Fine Arts has long advocated. This Plan allocated the Stadium to a site (site #2 in your 1958 study) directly north of the Armory building, while retaining the site (site #1 in your 1958 study) at the end of the East Mall and on axis with the Capitol as an open space for use as a sports field by the people of Washington. In order to make an impressive gateway to the city, this terminal space has been landscaped and is now in use by the people of Washington as a sports field for baseball and other games. It has been expected that this open area would in this way also remain available as a possible location for a great monument comparable to the Lincoln Memorial at the end of the West Mall on axis with the Capitol.

The Commission of Fine Arts was not consulted by the Armory Board in the early stages of planning the Stadium, although it offered to help in such work during the passage of the enabling legislation and the development of the Stadium Study for Congress. That Study was brought to the Commission of Fine Arts for advice for the first time only last month, and again on April 15th, a year after its completion. As noted above, the Study designates three possible sites for the Stadium and expresses a preference for site #1. The

Honorable George F. Shea
16 April 1959

page 2

Commission of Fine Arts can understand the Armory Board's desire not to utilize site #2, because all the necessary land is not in the possession of the Federal Government and to acquire the land would result in delays, which would be detrimental to the completion of the Stadium project.

These difficulties do not exist as regards site #3, also designated as available in the Armory Board's Study. Site #3 would seem to offer additional advantages in providing parking space immediately adjoining the Stadium, whereas, if site #1 is chosen, the Stadium structure would completely fill the area, necessitating overflow parking into the park lands along the river as well as onto site #2 and the surrounding area needed for the projected East Mall. This encroachment may make it difficult to realize eventual plans for the East Mall which is the logical location for future public buildings for the use of Congress and the Executive Departments, as well as museums, libraries and other official buildings. It would also preempt for the athletic stadium one of the last important sites now in reserve for a great memorial, such as the ones to George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln, to name only three of the shrines visited by large numbers of people who come to Washington and are inspired by such evidences of our history and culture.

Under these circumstances, the Commission of Fine Arts believes that it would be derelict in its duty if it did not recommend site #3 for the Stadium, in preference to site #1. There should be no delay in erecting the Stadium on this site, as your architects and engineers have made a design that can be adapted to site #3 as well as site #1. The Commission has in general approved the circular design submitted as a very handsome solution of the problem. It would prefer that the projecting square wall attached to one side of the circular design be omitted; and that a method of lighting be chosen to avoid intense glare, not only for those who see the building from a distance, but also for the players and spectators inside the Stadium.

The Commission hopes that there will be no delay in completing plans and working drawings for the Stadium, which it considers an important and needed facility in Washington. It believes also that the Stadium is deserving of a less constricted location, with adjacent parking facilities, such as could be provided on site #3. The members of the Commission, particularly the architect members and the landscape architect, will be glad to be of assistance in realizing the desires of the Armory Board, and the people of Washington, to achieve the finest design and the best location that can be provided in the District of Columbia, taking into consideration not only the Stadium, itself, but also the overall development of the Federal city.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Honorable George F. Shea
Chairman
District of Columbia Armory Board
Washington, D. C.

David E. Finley
Chairman

(211)

21 April 1959

Colonel William E. Shepherd
Agent, Society of the First Division
1511-33rd Street, N. W.
Washington 7, D. C.

Dear Colonel Shepherd:

At their meeting on 15 April 1959, I showed the members of the Commission the sketch drawing for the inscription which the First Division Association desires to execute on the west face of the large memorial stone facing 17th Street. The consensus was that the dates should be omitted and the letters of the title placed in one line, using carved letters of classic type. This inscription will always be viewed with the memorial column in the background, making its character and scale a matter of the greatest importance.

We shall be glad to see the full size lettering when it has been designed.

Sincerely yours,


L. R. Wilson
Secretary

cc Superintendent,
National Capital Parks

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

The Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, the Commission of Fine Arts, and Miss Katharine N. Rhoades, or Mrs. Eugene Meyer, as provided in Paragraph 4 of the Codicil to the Will of the late Charles L. Freer, have examined the following objects:

2 Paintings, Indian, Mughal, Hamzanamah, ca. 1575; calligraphy on backs;

1 Painting, Indian, ca. 1600; Prince Salim with courtiers in tent;

1 Painting, Indian, ca. 1600; Akbar in audience;

2 Paintings (1 pair screens), Japanese, Nanga school, by Bai-itsu; 19th century; landscapes;

1 Pottery bowl, Chinese, Ming, blue and white;

which have been recommended for purchase for the Freer Gallery of Art by Mr. A. G. Wenley, Director, and they hereby approve the purchase.

For the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

David E. Zuley

For the Commission of Fine Arts.

15 April 1959

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Reports of the Smithsonian Institution, the Commission of Fine Arts, and also
James H. Rhoads, or Mrs. Eugene Meyer, as provided in Paragraph 4 of the
Bill of the House of Representatives, have examined the following

notes:

1. Paintings, Indian, Egyptian, Assyrian, etc. 1875; calligraphy on papyrus

1. Paintings, Indian, etc. 1882; Prince of Wales with portrait in front

1. Paintings, Indian, etc. 1880; portrait in background

2. Paintings (1 with reverse), Japanese, etc. 1881-1882 1883
country; landscapes

1. Pottery bowl, Chinese, etc. 1881 and 1882

It has been recommended for purchase for the First Gallery of Art of the U. S.
Museum, and they hereby approve the purchase.

For the Report of the Smithsonian Institution.

James H. Rhoads

For the Commission of Fine Arts.

17 April 1959

RECEIVED
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
APR 15 1959

NOTED

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with your request, the Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on March 18, 1959, asked me to write you with reference to H. R. 4046, a bill "To amend the Act of August 21, 1935, to provide for a determination of whether certain sites, buildings, or other objects, such as the historic State, War, Navy Building, the San Francisco Mint, and the Morristown National Historical Park, are of national historical significance in order to successfully save those sites, buildings, and objects which are of great national value and which are now being destroyed or are being threatened with destruction by the Federal Government as well as by private interests."

The Commission of Fine Arts would be glad to see such legislation passed by the Congress. We have been greatly concerned that, in carrying out the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956, many historic buildings and objects of national significance would be destroyed in the accomplishment of the highway program. Having this danger in mind, the Commission, on December 6, 1957, wrote to the Federal Highway Administrator, Bureau of Public Roads, regarding this matter and suggested the addition to his staff of one or more qualified consultants who could advise him of impending threats by projected highways to buildings and objects of national significance.

We pointed out that during World War II there was organized The American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monuments in War Areas, of which Justice Owen J. Roberts was Chairman. As one of its services, the Commission recommended to the United States Army, museum officials and art historians to assist the army, so far as was consistent with military necessity, in protecting works of cultural value in countries occupied by our armies. In this way, much unnecessary destruction of art treasures and historic monuments was avoided. The Commission of Fine Arts believes that in peace-time our Bureau of Public Roads should have the same kind of expert advice in carrying out their tremendous project which has such possibilities in the way it will affect our cities, our countryside, and our historic monuments.

The Commission would like to see enacted such legislation as H. R. 4046, and suggests the inclusion of a provision to add a cultural advisor in the office of the Federal Highway Administrator in addition to the authority to withhold Federal payment of funds as specified under certain conditions in the above bill.

The second part of H. R. 4046 refers to amending Chapter 3, Title 23 of the United States Code, and also deals with the preservation of buildings, etc., namely those owned by the United States. The Commission would like to see such legislation enacted which would insure saving historic sites, buildings or objects of national significance.

The Commission of Fine Arts would be glad of the opportunity to consult on these matters with the General Services Administration, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Director of the National Collection of Fine Arts as provided in the legislation.

The Bureau of the Budget has indicated that there is no objection to the submission of this report.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Wayne N. Aspinwall
Chairman
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

86TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4046

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 4, 1959

Mr. THOMPSON of New Jersey introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

A BILL

To amend the Act of August 21, 1935, to provide for a determination of whether certain sites, buildings, or other objects, such as the historic State, War, Navy Building, the San Francisco Mint, and the Morristown National Historical Park, are of national historical significance in order to successfully save those sites, buildings, and objects which are of great national value and which are now being destroyed or are being threatened with destruction by the Federal Government as well as by private interests.

- 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
- 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 3 That the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the preserva-
- 4 tion of historical American sites, buildings, objects, and an-

1 tiquities, and for other purposes", approved August 21,
2 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461-467, inclusive), is amended by
3 adding at the end thereof the following new section:

4 "SEC. 8. (a) Whenever the Secretary of the Interior
5 receives a petition from any interested person or organiza-
6 tion alleging that a highway project proposed by a State or
7 political subdivision of a State which is to be financed in
8 whole or in part with Federal funds will seriously damage
9 or destroy a historical site, building, or object of national
10 significance, the Secretary shall conduct an investigation
11 which shall include, but not be limited to, holding public
12 hearings or affording the opportunity for such hearings.
13 Upon the conclusion of such investigation the Secretary shall
14 determine whether or not such site, building or object is of
15 national historical significance.

16 "(b) Whenever the Secretary of the Interior deter-
17 mines under subsection (a) that a site, building, or object
18 is of national historical significance, he shall forthwith deter-
19 mine whether or not the proposed highway project will seri-
20 ously damage or destroy the national historical site,
21 building, or object.

22 "(c) Whenever the Secretary of the Interior acting
23 under this section determines that a national historical site,
24 building, or object will be seriously damaged or destroyed

1 by a proposed highway project, he shall notify the Secretary
2 of Commerce of his determination.”

3 SEC. 2. (a) Chapter 3, of title 23 of the United States
4 Code is amended by adding at the end thereof the following
5 new section:

6 “§ 321. Sites, buildings, and objects of national historical
7 significance

8 “Whenever the Secretary of the Interior acting under
9 authority of section 8 of the Act of August 21, 1935, notifies
10 the Secretary of Commerce that a proposed highway project
11 will seriously damage or destroy a site, building, or object
12 of national historical significance, the Secretary of Commerce
13 shall not approve the expenditure of Federal funds for such
14 project under this title, and if such project has, prior to such
15 notification, been so approved, no further expenditure of
16 Federal funds shall be made for such project after the date
17 of such notification.”

18 (b) The table of sections of chapter 3 of title 23 of
19 the United States Code is amended by adding at the end
20 thereof the following:

“321. Sites, buildings, and objects of national historical significance.”

21 SEC. 3. The Administrator of General Services shall, in
22 order to save historic buildings, sites, objects, and antiquities
23 owned by the United States which are or may be threatened
24 with destruction (such as the historic State, War, Navy

1 Building in Washington, District of Columbia, the San
2 Francisco Mint, and the Morristown, New Jersey, National
3 Historical Park), advise and consult with the Secretary of
4 the Interior, the Commission of Fine Arts, and the Director
5 of the National Collection of Fine Arts and shall establish
6 procedures and methods for successfully saving such historic
7 buildings, sites, objects, and antiquities as come within the
8 meaning of the Act entitled "An Act for the preservation
9 of American antiquities", approved June 8, 1906 (16
10 U.S.C. 431, 432, 433), or the Act entitled "An Act to pro-
11 vide for the preservation of historical American sites, build-
12 ings, objects, and antiquities, and for other purposes",
13 approved August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 and the
14 following).





A BILL

To amend the Act of August 21, 1935, to provide for a determination of whether certain sites, buildings, or other objects, such as the historic State, War, Navy Building, the San Francisco Mint, and the Morristown National Historical Park, are of national historical significance, in order to successfully save those sites, buildings, and objects which are of great national value and which are now being destroyed or are being threatened with destruction by the Federal Government as well as by private interests.

By Mr. THOMPSON of New Jersey

FEBRUARY 4, 1959

Referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular
Affairs

RECEIVED
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

FEB 10 1959

NOTED

86TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3459

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 27, 1959

Mr. CURTIN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

A BILL

To amend the Act of August 21, 1935, to provide for a determination of whether certain sites, buildings, or other objects are of national historical significance, and to prohibit the use of Federal funds for highway purposes which damage or destroy national historical sites, buildings, or other objects.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the preserva-
4 tion of historical American sites, buildings, objects, and an-
5 tiquities, and for other purposes", approved August 21,
6 1935 (16 U.S.C. secs. 461-467, inclusive), is amended by
7 adding at the end thereof the following new section:

I

1 “SEC. 8. (a) Whenever the Secretary of the Interior
2 receives a petition or petitions from what he determines to
3 be a sufficient number of interested persons who are resi-
4 dents of the affected area alleging that a highway project
5 proposed by a State or political subdivision of a State which
6 is to be financed in whole or in part with Federal funds
7 will seriously damage or destroy a historical site, building,
8 or object of national significance, the Secretary shall, in
9 cooperation with local interests, conduct an investigation,
10 which shall include, but not be limited to, holding public
11 hearings at convenient locations, or affording the oppor-
12 tunity for such hearings. Upon the conclusion of such in-
13 vestigation the Secretary shall determine whether or not
14 such site, building or object is of national historical
15 significance.

16 “(b) Whenever the Secretary of the Interior deter-
17 mines under subsection (a) that a site, building, or object
18 is of national historical significance, he shall forthwith deter-
19 mine whether or not the proposed highway project will seri-
20 ously damage or destroy the national historical site,
21 building, or object.

22 “(c) Whenever the Secretary of the Interior acting
23 under this section determines that a national historical site,
24 building, or object will be seriously damaged or destroyed

1 by a proposed highway project, he shall notify the Secretary
2 of Commerce of his determination.”

3 SEC. 2. (a) Chapter 3, of title 23 of the United States
4 Code is amended by adding at the end thereof the following
5 new section:

6 “§ 321. Sites, buildings, and objects of national historical
7 significance

8 “Whenever the Secretary of the Interior acting under
9 authority of section 8 of the Act of August 21, 1935, notifies
10 the Secretary of Commerce that a proposed highway project
11 will seriously damage or destroy a site, building, or object
12 of national historical significance, the Secretary of Commerce
13 shall not approve the expenditure of Federal funds for such
14 project under this title, and if such project has, prior to such
15 notification, been so approved, no further expenditure of
16 Federal funds shall be made for such project after the date
17 of such notification.”

18 (b) The table of sections of chapter 3 of title 23 of
19 the United States Code is amended by adding at the end
20 thereof the following:

“321. Sites, buildings, and objects of national historical significance.”

A BILL

To amend the Act of August 21, 1935, to provide for a determination of whether certain sites, buildings, or other objects are of national historical significance, and to prohibit the use of Federal funds for highway purposes which damage or destroy national historical sites, buildings, or other objects.

By Mr. CURTIN

JANUARY 27, 1959

Referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular
Affairs

RECEIVED
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

FEB 19 1959

NOTED